2: Sanders E-5 (no date) 1949 EEl Bulgaria EEl

a trade school in Sofia. Because he drove in his wooden pegs with the best of them, he was building up a profitable business in the village.

Barbers stayed only a short while in Dragalevtsy. One from Sofia opened up a shop on the main square with high hopes, but his white coat and swanky airs attracted only a few intelligentsia and summer residents, and practically none of the peasants. The barber that seemed to enjoy the most popularity during his erratic visits to the village frequented the taverns. When his services were in demand, he pulled the victim's chair to a corner where he set to work in view of the general public. His mellow tenor voice, none the worse for his imbibing, brought him more trade than his ability as a barber.

Other artisans were even more itinerant than the barbers. The *maistori* (contractors, master builders) came to the village whenever a building was to be put up. One day in the fall of 1934, upon arriving in Renaissance Square I was amazed to see a shirt and a flag flying atop the highest beam of the then unfinished Obshtina, or municipal building. I heard a powerful voice calling out:

"Half a gallon of wine from Ivan Stoynov! May there be as many blessings in his house as there are ants in the field; may his joys be as numerous as the leaves on the trees."

The voice paused for a minute or two, perhaps for the owner to sample the wine, but soon rang out again substituting "two pairs of stockings" for the "half a gallon of wine" in the chant about the ants in the field and the leaves on the trees. I soon learned that the villagers had chosen this day to carry out the traditional practice of bringing presents to the master builder for distribution to his workmen, who were dutifully acknowledging the gifts in the accepted manner.

The tinsmiths usually were gypsies who spent a few days each year in Dragalevtsy. In spite of their low social position they performed a useful task in keeping the pots and kettles serviceable year in and year out.

My growing acquaintance with the people and the work they did helped me to sense the atmosphere of Dragalevtsy life. But I soon began to feel, with the peasants, the dominance of the great mountain

2:Sanders E-5 (no date) 1949 EE1 Bulgaria EE1

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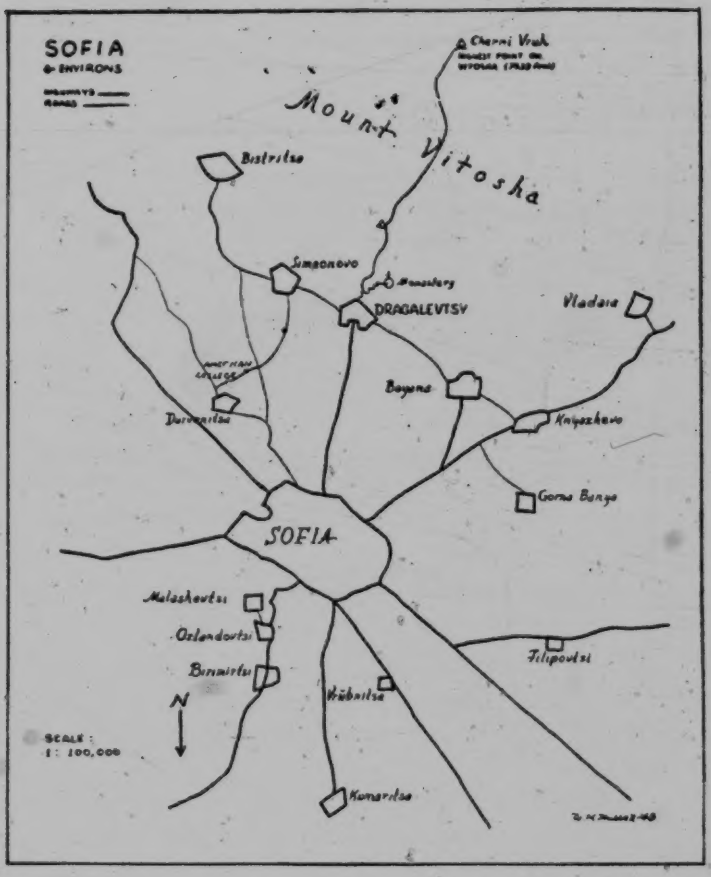

133 on whose side the village lies. That huge, partly naked mass of diorite which is Mount Vitosha rises majestically with barely perceptible foothills out of the broad Sofia plain to a height of seven thousand feet. The side of the mountain toward Sofia is twelve miles long, and is brightened in spots by the brilliant patches of the red-tiled houses of the principal villages. Farthest to the west, nearest to Sofia, is Boyana, where many of the peasants have sold their farms to real estate agents, and thus have earned the contempt of their landed Dragalevtsy neighbors two miles to the east. Dragalevtsy, partly up the slope, lies between the fields which fan out below and the scrubby

2: Sanders E-5 (no date) 1949 EE1 Bulgaria EE1

trees above, pitiful reminders of a once-proud forest. A hurried mountain stream called Dragalevtsy River passes through the village and, in doing so, turns the grist mills and assists with the washing of clothes. 133

A mile to the east of Dragalevtsy is Simeonovo, a settlement decidedly run-down at the heel. It was here that I spent a busy morning trying to explain to two villagers that the earth was really global rather than flat. Farther on around the shoulder of the mountain is Bistritsa, where the people are said to sing as they dance the *horo:* 186

"There is no city more populous than Sofia,
There is no river more majestic than the Iskar,
There is no mountain more lofty than Vitosha."

This is an accurate illustration of ethnocentrism, or the belief prevalent among most people that they, and they alone, are the center of the universe and God's chosen children.

My usual approach to the village was across the unfenced fields and up the mountainside. Sometimes I came along the dull road from Sofia. By either way, the great mountain, changing color from hour to hour, was a rest to the eyes. The way across the fields led one gently into the village through patches of vegetable gardens and clumps of overhanging fruit trees. Upon entering the village from the direction of Sofia I passed the cemetery and then was closed in between whitewashed walls which lined the curving streets. Animals also felt much at home in these streets. Just before sunset the village goatherd headed the two hundred animals in his care toward the settlement. Into Renaissance Square they trotted, a capering mass of gray, black, and white. At each street several goats detached themselves from the rest to run unguided into their respective dwellings. The same scene occurred when the pigs came squealing home. At other times of day peasant girls passed by carrying washing to be pounded on rocks and dipped into the icy water of Dragalevtsy River. Hikers, many of them, lounged around Bai Penko's, or tramped through the streets obviously amused at the manners of the peasants. 631 [231]

Few things were as dependent upon the weather as the state of the village streets: muddy beyond description in the autumn and spring, 132

133 High mountains like Vitosha, Rila, Pirin and the Rhodo-
487 pe, with peaks as high as 9597 feet (Moussala, being the highest mountain peak in the Balkans), are the source of Balkan's most important rivers flowing in all directions (Fig. 2). They are Isker, Maritza, Mesta, Struma and the main affluents of the Vardar and Morava rivers, totaling about 1450 miles in
487 length. These mountains do not only point the way the rivers should flow, but they determine also the direction of Balkan roads. In spite of its consideratble elevation, this mountainous

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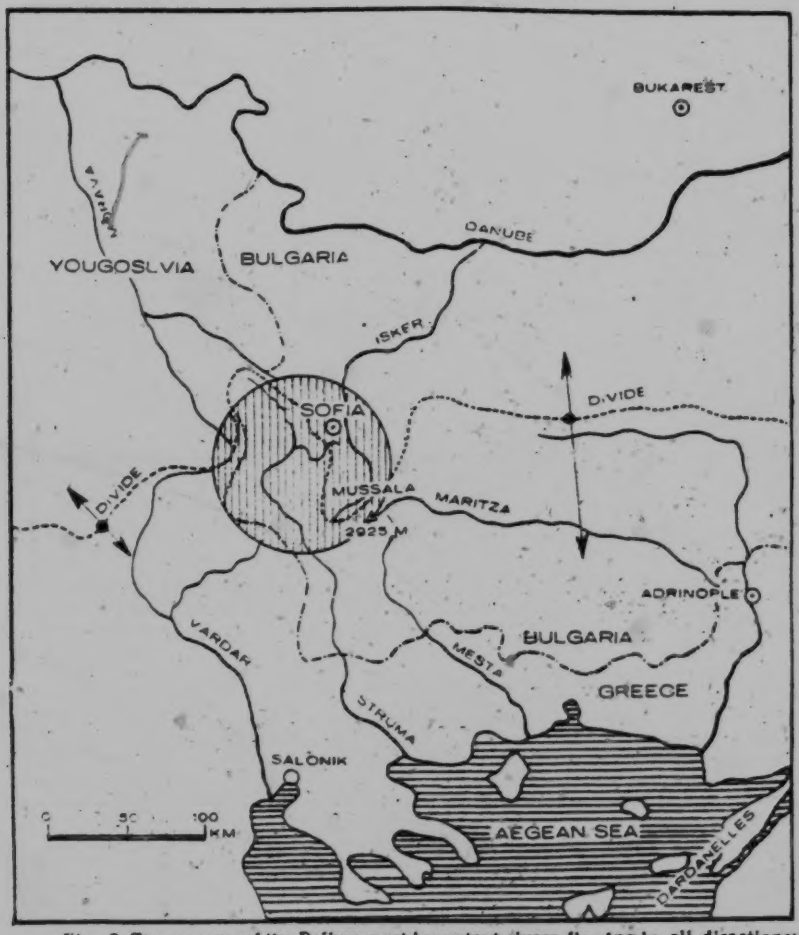

Fig. 2. The sources of the Balkan most important rivers flowing in all directions: the watershed between the Danube and the Aegean Sea; 43% of Bulgaria's territory is an Aegean Country.

S: Bojkoff K-4, 5 (no date) 1946 EE1 Bulgaria EE1

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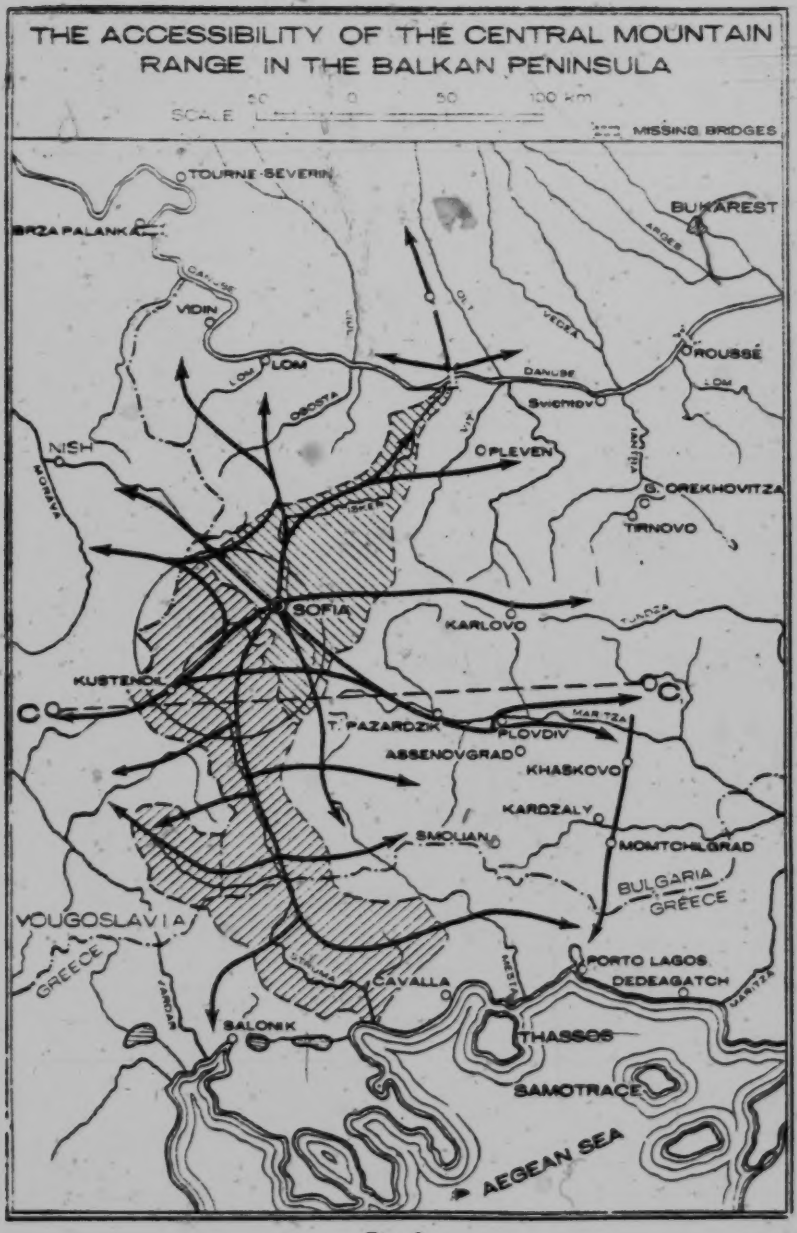

Fig. 3.

8: Bojkoff K-4, 5 (no date) 1946 EE1 Bulgaria EE1

most important river in Europe and second, because of the policy of the Great Powers which blocked the routes of this large hinterland of the Aegean Sea to its sea ports.

All who seek to understand the position of Bulgaria should remember that from the central point of the peninsula,

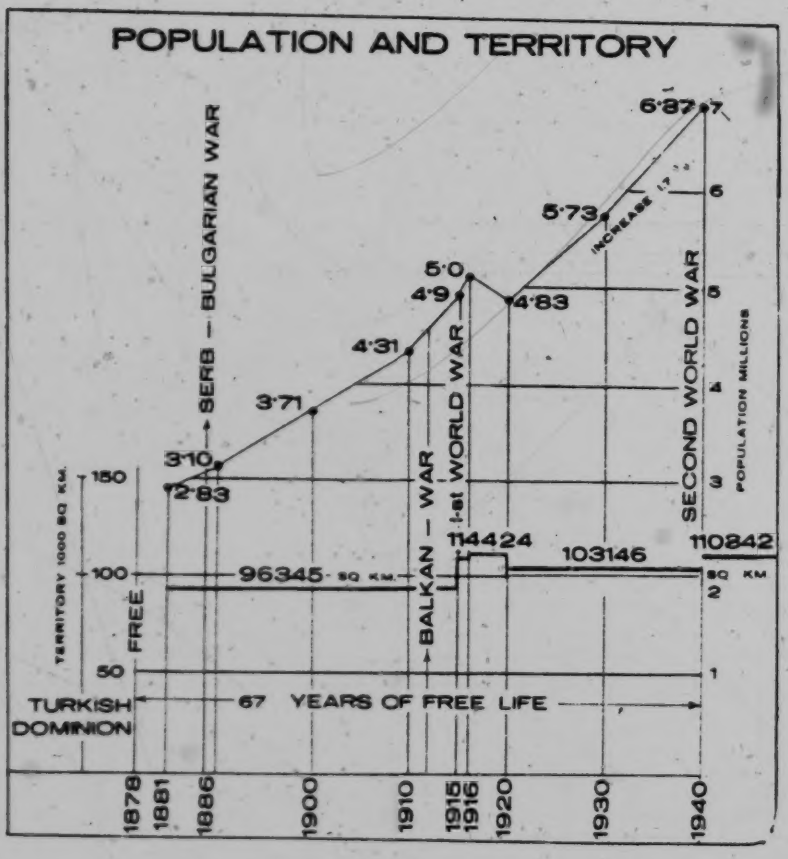

Fig. 12.

around the highest mountain peak of Moussala 2925 m. = 9597 feet), spring the main Balkan rivers flowing in all directions (like Maritsa, Mesta, Strouma, Iskar), and in close proximity — the main affluents of the Vardar and Morava rivers (Fig. 2).

The country's diversity of soil and climate afford conditions for an intensive economic life and production. The levels

[See p. 10 -- Analyst]

133 of elevation given for the territory before 1940 (103.146 sq. km.[1]) are:

500 m. above sea level	64.5 %
500 to 1000 m. above sea level	22.9 %
1000 and more above sea level	12.6 %

The distribution of elevations is favorable for agriculture, cattle-raising and forestry. The well-watered vast planes sloping properly assure an intensive cultivation of valuable food and industrial cultures. The plane of Plovdiv is 4.470 sq. kilometers and has an elevation of 200 meters above sea level, the plane of Stara-Zagora is 1583 sq. km. at an elevation of 160 meters above sea level and the Sofia plateau is 550 m. above sea level with a surface of 1185 sq. km. Then we have the huge and fertile Danube plane which runs along the whole course of the river.

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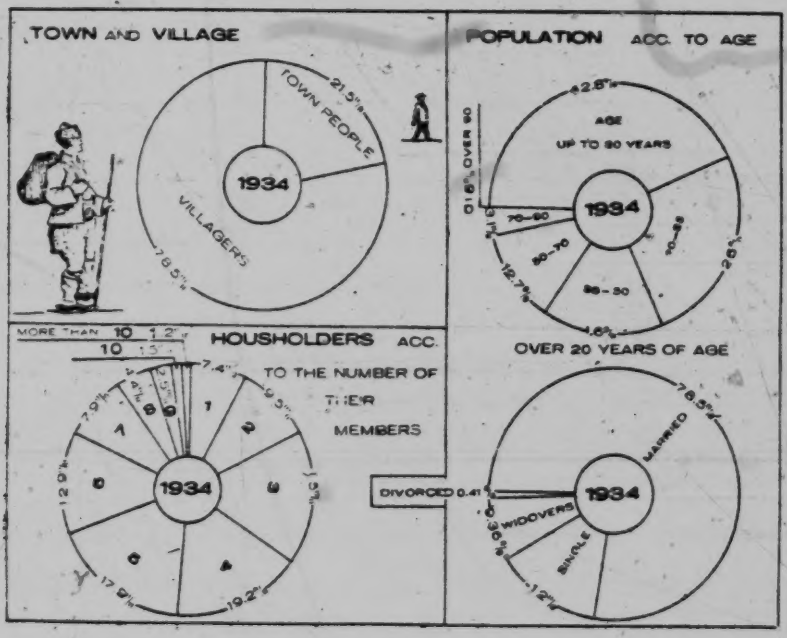

Fig. 13.

[1]) 1 sq. mile = 2.59 sq. km.

8: Bojkoff K-4, 5 (no date) 1946 EE1 Bulgaria EE1

1930, while on the B. St. Lines for the same period we have an increase of 20.5%.

The Greek Railways had an increase of only 255 kilometers or 9.6% for the period 1914 to 1940, while Bulgaria increased its railway network with 1.025 kilometers or 48.7% after the two national catastrophies (1913 and 1918). Since 1920, for a period of 25 years, Greece has played with the pet idea of building the railroad extension Drama—Kavala, 31 kilometers long, in order to link this sea port with the railroad network. This good intention did not grow up to maturity and the work on this line is left undone until to-day.

Greece suffers of marine hypertrophy. The Greeks control an enormous sea coast line, which they are in no position to make the best use off. Here is how the relation between the sea coast line of the countries and their entire frontier line stands: 80.7% of the entire frontier line of Greece is sea coast line, for Albania the relation is 38.8%, for Yugoslavia — 34.1% and for Bulgaria — 17.5%.

For 1 km. of sea coast we have

Territory: For Greece 22, for Albania 62.2, for Yugoslavia 155 and for Bulgaria 277.5 sq. km.;

Population: for Greece 1060, for Albania 2340, for Yugoslavia 9900 and for Bulgaria 15.000 inhabitants.

57. Construction Work. It is hard to give a satisfactory picture in this brief study about Bulgaria's accomplishement during the last period of her present free existence. Whatever her achievements might be, they would hardly impress a sophisticated reader, who would wish to measure her with the standards of his advanced country, whose present generation probably owes its spiritual and material progress to the advantages of free life and activity of preceding generations. Our picture, however, would not be complete if we said nothing about the technical developments of Bulgaria or about the work of Bulgarian engineers and architects.

Notwithstanding its limited means, the country spared nothing for its public works. About the beginning of the Second World War, Bulgaria was spending on the average about one billion leva annually for government and municipal building operations. This expenditure grew constantly: in 1936 — 457.600.000, in 1937 — 505.600.000, in 1938 — 534.100.000,

11: Logio S-4 (no date) 1936 EEl Bulgaria EEl

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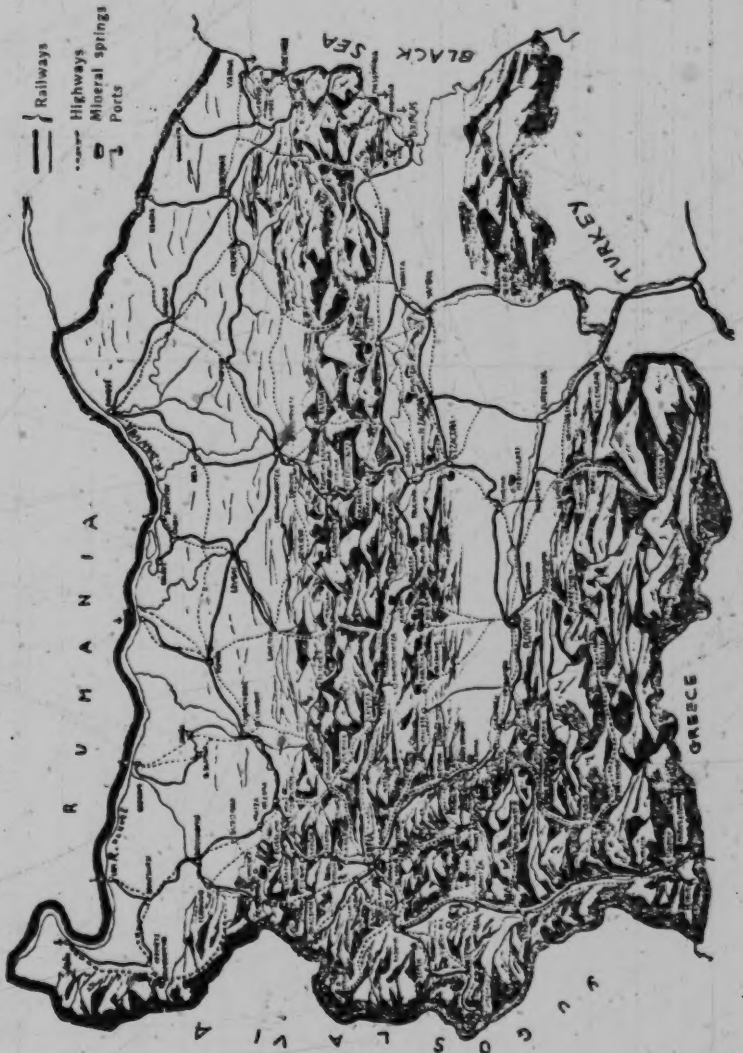

TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP OF BULGARIA

[facing p.50]

BULGARIA-PAST & PRESENT

GEOGRAPHICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL NOTES

131 Bulgaria has an area of 103,104,170 square kilometres or of about 42,000 square miles, rather more than a third of the area of Great Britain and Ireland. She occupies the North-Eastern corner of the Balkan Peninsula, between latitudes 41 an 44 and longitudes 22 and 28 east of Greenwich. To the north she is separated from Rumania partly by an artificial frontier 205 klm. in length across the Dobrudja and partly by the Danube for a distance of 397.3 klm. To the east Bulgaria is bounded by the Black Sea for a distance of 311·2 klm. To the south, an artificial frontier separates her for a distance of 234.6 and 485.7 klm. respectively from Turkey and Greece, the boundary with the latter country running along the highlands of the Rhodopes. To the west, the frontier with Yugoslavia runs from the mouth of the river Timok, an affluent of the Danube, southwards until its intersection with the Bulgaro-Greek boundary and is 523.8 klm. in length.

133 Bulgaria is intersected from west to east by the Balkan range, the highest peak of which attains an altitude of 2,373 metres. The Balkans are traversed by several defiles, and also by the river Isker, which rising in the Rila mountains cuts across the Balkans through a deep and picturesque gorge and finally reaches the Danube. To the south of the Balkans extends for a considerable distance a parallel chain of mountains, the Sredna Gora, forming between the two a series of fertile plains, the most famous of which is the renowned Valley of Roses. To the south of the Sredna Gora lies the Thracian plain drained by the river Maritsa and bounded to the south by the Rhodope Mountains which merge on the west with the Pirrin range and the imposing mass of the Rila mountains, the highest peak of which, the Mussala, attains 2,923 metres.

11: Logio S-4 (no date) 1936 EE1 Bulgaria EE1

GEOGRAPHICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL NOTES

133 In the west, and south of the Balkans lies the Sofia basin, at an altitude of some 580 metres, crowned by the picturesque Vitosh Mountain, reaching a height of 2,287 metres, at the foot of which lies the capital of the country, Sofia. The country to the north of the Balkans forms a table land, intersected by several affluents of the Danube. its eastern part gradually merging into the waterless region of the Deli-Orman, a part of which is now in Rumania. The south western part of Bulgaria is formed by the upper part of the valleys of the rivers Struma and Mesta and constitutes that part of Macedonia which has reverted to Bulgaria.

162 According to the census taken on December 31, 1934, the total population of Bulgaria was 6,090,215, or 59 inhabitants per square kilometre. The vast majority of the population was rural, the urban population being only 21.48% of the total and segregated mainly in the following towns of more than 10,000 inhabitants: Sofia 287,976; Plovdiv 100,485; Varna 70,183; Rustchuk 49,388; Burgas 36,099; Pleven 31,764; Sliven 30,683; Stara-Zagora 29,857; Haskovo 26,622; Shumen 25,734; Yambol 25,125; Pazardjik 23,387; Vidin 18,599; Assenovgrad (Stanimaka) 17,817; Vratsa 16,477; Kustendil 16,386; Pernik 15,977; Dupnitsa 16,071; Razgrad 15,700; Kazanlik 15,097; Lom 14,807; Timovo 14,100; Gabrovo 13,823; Svistov 12,112; Tsirpan 11,308; Samokov 11,031; Tirgovishte (Eski Djuma) 10,421; Panagurishte 10,188; Petritch 10,121; Gorna-Djuma 10,028; There are 67 other urban centres of less than 10,000 inhabitants, but which in fact are mere villages, the smallest of these is Melnik, with a population of only 548 inhabitants.

133 Bulgaria owing to her extremely variegated structural character offers an astonishing diversity of landscape scenery

133 to the tourist.[1] The Rila mountains with their numerous lakes, Alpine scenery, extensive pine forests, beautiful valleys, and crystal streams, constitute a perennial source of attraction. The famous Rila monastery which is reached 346 by a narrow gauge railway from Dupnitsa, as well as by road from Sofia accessible to motor cars, extends its large hospitality to all visitors and may serve as a hostelry for those intent on indulging in the healthy joys of mountaineering. The monastery deserves a visit by itself; its imposing pile crowned with its domes and cupolas and its battlemented tower, all encased and dominated by a ring of forest clad mountains, leaves a lasting impression of calm and repose on the visitor. The great gate of the monastery leads into a vast pentagonal yard in the midst of which is the church brilliantly decorated with frescoes and stone-work and endowed with a magnificent ikonostasis. By the side of the church is the five storied stern old tower, that constitutes the only remaining relic of the original structure of the monastery built in 1335. The immense yard is surrounded by a number of galleries, giving access to the cells of the monks which now usually serve as lodgings for visitors. These galleries rise in tiers, forming a series of picturesque arcades overhanging the yard with its numerous fountains which fill the air with their endless murmur of running water, all vying to dominate the roar of the swift-flowing stream traversing the mountain gorge in which the monastery is built, and which supplies the enraptured traveller at the rustic restaurant kept purposely for his behalf, with a dish of succulent mountain-trout, such as would have relished even Lucullus himself.

133 To the south ot the Rila range rise the Pirrin Mountains and further east the Rhodopes. The little town

[1] An excellent and profusely illustrated guide-book in English, may be obtained free of charge from the Tourist Bureau of the Bulgarian State Railways in Sofia.

of Razlog on the upper reaches of the river Mesta may serve as a convenient centre for excusions in this maze of mountains mostly clad with pine and fir forests. The three beautiful mountain lakes dominated by the majestic summit of the El-Tepe, the highest peak of the Pirrin range, reaching an altitude of 2684 metres, may be easily reached from the townlet of Bansko, a few kilometres to the south of Razlog. Tourist huts have been erected at several points, and recently excellent roads have been constructed, so that the more adventurous type of tourist, intent on roaming off the beaten track, can indulge in protracted and most enjoyable rambles in what is certainly a *terra incognita*, even to most Bulgarians.

It is astonishing that the Bulgarian Government has done nothing to popularise Sofia as a tourist centre, and yet few towns in Eastern Europe can rival it as such. It is at a convenient driving distance from the Balkan mountains which offer a veritable kaleidoscope of enchanting views. Century old oak and beech forests cover generally the rolling undulating mountain valleys, their shaded glens offering the most delectable relaxation after the heat of the plain. Another attractive forest resort is Tcham-Koria, lying on the heavily wooded slopes of the Rila, amid enchanting mountain scenery, at a distance of 69 klm. to the south east of Sofia. The greatest attraction of Sofia is of course its mineral and thermal springs. In the centre of the town is a modern bathing establishment, built on the site ot the ancient Roman thermal baths, and endowed with an electro-therapeutic section. In close proximity to Sofia are a number of other thermal springs most of which are endowed with excellent bathing accomodation and easily accessible from Sofia by either tram, train, or motor bus. Such are the thermal establishments of Bankia, one of the finest in Bulgaria, that of Gorna-Bania, Ovtcha-Kupel, and of Kniajevo. Bulgaria is

11: Logio S-4 (no date) 1936 EEl Bulgaria EEl

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IN THE RHODOPES, SOUTH OF BATAK

[facing p. 321]

Il: Logio S-4 (no date) 1936 EEl Bulgaria EEl

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TSAM KORIA

241

A PLOUGHMAN

[facing p. 385]

ALBANIA EG1
BULGARIA EE1

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When stables are not present, man and animals may live together in the same one-room house; occasionally a breast-high fence serves as a separation. Even in a one-room house there is a separate entrance for the animals. Occasionally stables are made of wood. I was unable to find more information on them, but it would appear that horses are more frequently kept in a stable on the ground floor than in a separate building. Sheds for storage are better made than the stables and rest on stone foundations to permit circulation of air (Nopcsa, 1925: 22). In northern Albania there are no separate houses for hay.

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[824]

Buildings Outside the Village. Cone-like huts (kačor) are used as temporary buildings by fishermen in the swampy regions of the coast. They are made of rough branches that interlock at the top. They are 2 meters in diameter and 2.5-3 meters high, covered with reeds which make them waterproof (Nopcsa, 1925: 8).

A
342
[84]

In the plains near Scutari, one finds semi-subterranean buildings. A deep excavation, 8 by 3 by .30 meters is made; on the long sides a wall 40 centimeters high of dry masonry is built up and on the short sides a wall 2 meters high. The gabled roof is of straw, and earth is built up until it touches the eaves. Grass soon begins to grow over the roof and it is not easily recognizable. The door is on the gabled side, the fireplace opposite it. This structure is used by shepherds and their cattle in winter. Similar buildings are found in Wallachia (fig. 63) (Nopcsa, 1925: 9).

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[233]

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In the barren mountains of northern Albania one finds storage houses built against the slope of a hill. Only a side wall and a front wall are erected. Horizontal beams are laid over this, then wooden boards, and lastly earth. Here one also finds dairy huts made of masonry, rarely of wood, resembling the simple one-unit house. They are meant for summer use and are erected on the sunny slopes. Each one has an enclosure in which the sheep are kept at night. The enclosure is irregular in shape and the fence is of wicker or of stone.

BULGARIA

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[127]

Data on the Bulgarian farm houses have been derived mainly from the works of J. F. Gellert on Central Bulgaria (1937) and East Bulgaria (1934). Cvijić, in his work La Péninsule Balkanique, deals but briefly with Bulgaria, commenting that his Mixed type predominates and that one finds "une mélange extraordinaire de formes d'ancienne maisons" (Cvijić, 1918: 251).

B
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Central Bulgaria is the region extending from the Ihtimanska Sredna Gora to the Tundža River in the east; the northern boundary includes the southern slopes of the Balkan Mountains, and in the south it terminates at the Rhodopes. It includes mountainous regions in the north and the lowlands of the Marica River. East Bulgaria

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[133]

17:Thurnher E:4 (no date) 1956 EF6 Serbs
BULGARIA EE1

extends from the Rumanian border south to the towns of Karnobat and Burgas. 131

Location and Types of Settlement. The presence of water is an important factor in the location of the settlements. Villages tend to be located along the Marica, Topolnica Strema and Tundja rivers. In the Tundja Mountains settlements are on the slopes of hills. Isolated hills in the Marica valley are preferred spots. Settlements rarely descend into the fertile river plain, most of them being located at its edge (Gellert, 1937: 142-43). In the Sub-Balkan regions, settlements are rarely at the bottom of steep valleys or on steep slopes, a gentler terrain being preferred (Gellert, 1937: 143). 361 133 [312]

Due to the irregular terrain and deep valleys in the Topolnica and Ihtimanska Sredna Gora regions, the settlements are in the form of hamlets (mahala, kolibi) of 2-10 farmsteads, scattered over the spurs overlooking a valley in which is located the main village (Gellert, 1937: 168). In eastern Bulgaria the villages show no regular plan. In the plains the villages are large and the buildings less crowded, the roads being often exaggeratedly wide. In mountainous terrain the roads are narrow and crooked, often unsuitable for carts (Gellert, 1937: 164). [491]

House Types. In eastern Bulgaria the building materials are boards, wicker, mud and unfired brick. Usually a framework of wood is filled with wicker, which may or may not be plastered. Compact walls are often made of mud, unfired brick or stones, strengthened with horizontal bond timbers. These may form the foundation on which the upper story of timber-framing is built. The hipped roof is of straw, reeds or brushwood. On the longer side of the house the eaves extend over a veranda that is raised about 10 centimeters from the ground. The walls are generally whitewashed, and each room has an exit to the veranda. Chimneys are of woven brushwood or of fieldstones and are plastered with mud. Bulgarians often build one half of the house first and plan to add more rooms later; when one side of the roof is not hipped it means that the house is not finished (Gellert, 1934: 8). 342

A two to three room house is common. Often the veranda is between the protruding side rooms (fig. 56e). The central room is generally windowless and serves as a winter kitchen. Frequently many farm units are included in the main house. One of the side rooms may be transformed into a stable with a separate entrance from the outside (fig. 56c) (Gellert, 1934: 8-9).

Two-story buildings are in the majority (fig. 56a, 56b). In the ground floor are the stable and cellar. Often annexes are built on the sides (fig. 56e) and the back, and the roof is extended over them. Here, too, the veranda is enclosed by the two side rooms. The stairway leading up to the veranda may be a simple one of wood or a massive one of unfired brick (Gellert, 1934: 10-11). While